

Thangmi language

Thangmi, also called **Thāmī**, **Thangmi Kham**, **Thangmi Wakhe**, and **Thani**, is a Sino-Tibetan language spoken in central-eastern Nepal and northeastern India by the Thami people. The Thami refer to their language as *Thangmi Kham* or *Thangmi Wakhe* while the rest of Nepal refers to it as *Thāmī*. The majority of these speakers, however, live in Nepal in their traditional homeland of Dolakhā District. In India, the Thami population is concentrated mostly in Darjeeling.^[3] The Thangmi language is written using the Devanagari script.^[4] Thangmi has been extensively documented by Mark Turin.

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Distribution

Thangmi is spoken in:

- Janakpur Zone: northern and western Dolakha District; Ramechhap District (villages on Sailung Khola)
- Bagmati Zone: eastern Sindhupalchok District
- Kathmandu

Ethnic Thami outside Dolakha and Sindhupalcok districts no longer speak Thangmi.

Classification

The Thangmi language seems to have many similarities with other languages in Nepal. For example, Barām, Kiranti and Newar. Studies from Konow (1909), Shafer (1966), Stein (1970), Toba (1990), van Driem (1992) and Turin demonstrate that Thangmi is closely related to the Rai and Newar languages.

Thangmi	
Thāmī, Thangmi Khan, Thani	
Thangmi Kham and Thangmi Wakhe	
Pronunciation	thang-mi
Region	Nepal and India
Ethnicity	Thami
Native speakers	23,200 (2011 census) ^[1]
Language family	Sino-Tibetan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Newaric ▪ Baram–Thangmi ▪ Thangmi
Dialects	Dolakha Sindhupalcok
Language codes	
ISO 639-3	thf
Glottolog	than1259 (http://glottolog.org/resource/language/id/than1259) ^[2]

Grammar

Thangmi	English	Pronoun
<i>gai</i>	I	first person singular
<i>ni</i>	we	first person plural
<i>naŋ</i>	you	second person singular
<i>niŋ</i>	you	second person plural
<i>to</i>	he, she, it	third person singular
<i>tobaŋ</i>	they	third person plural

Dialects

Dolakhā vs. Sindhupālcok

Thangmi consists of two dialects, Dolakhā (East) and Sindhupālcok (West). They differ in terms of phonology, nominal, and verbal morphology and in lexicon. The majority of the Thangmi speaking population use the Dolakhā dialect while only a handful speak in Sindhupālcok. The Dolakhā dialect offers a more complete verbal agreement system while the Sindhupālcok dialect has a more complex nominal morphology.

Kinship		
English	Dolakhā	Sindhupālcok
younger brother	<i>hu</i>	<i>calaca hu</i>
younger sister	<i>hu</i>	<i>camaica hu</i>
father's eldest brother	<i>jekhapa</i>	<i>jhya?apa</i>
father's younger brother	<i>ucyapa</i>	<i>pacyu</i>
father's eldest sister	<i>nini</i>	<i>jhya?ama</i>
father's younger sister	<i>nini</i>	<i>nini</i>
mother's eldest brother	<i>palam</i>	<i>palam</i>
mother's younger brother	<i>malam</i>	<i>mou</i>
mother's eldest sister	<i>jekhama</i>	<i>jhya?ama</i>
mother's younger sister	<i>macyu</i>	<i>phus?ama</i>

Thangmi songs

The Thami population are people who are rich in cultural and traditions. Their language is a large part of who they are and they portray this in their cultural, mostly in music. The Nepal Tham Society (NTS) produced a handful of Thangmi songs that were recorded in 2007. The lyrics were written by Singh Bahadur Thami, Devendra Thami and Lok Bahadur Thami. Here are some examples:

Consoantes:

क	ख	ग	घ	ङ
k	kh	g	gh	ṅ
च	च	ज	झ	ঞ
চ	চ	জ	ঝ	ঁ
ट	ঠ	ড	ঢ	ণ
t	ঠ	ড	ঢ	ঁ
ত	থ	ঢ	ধ	ন
t	th	d	dh	n
প	ফ	ব	ভ	ম
p	ph	b	bh	m

Devanagari is the script that the Thangmi language uses.



Dolakha, Nepal

[1] (http://himalaya.socanth.cam.ac.uk/collections/music/renpatangko/downloads/Track_02.mp3)

[2] (http://himalaya.socanth.cam.ac.uk/collections/music/renpatangko/downloads/Track_03.mp3)

[3] (http://himalaya.socanth.cam.ac.uk/collections/music/renpatangko/downloads/Track_04.mp3)

Comparative vocabulary

The following 210-word list of five Thami dialects is from Regmi, *et al.* (2014).^[5] The dialects covered are:

- Babre VDC, Dolakha District
- Lapilang VDC, Dolakha District
- Suspa Kshamavati VDC, Dolakha District
- Daduwa VDC, Ramechhap District
- Chokati VDC, Sindhupalchok District

Baram words from Kansakar (2010)^[6] are also provided for comparison.

Gloss	Babre	Lapilang	Suspa Kshamavati	Daduwa	Chokati	Baram
body	maŋ	maŋ	maŋ	maŋ	jiu	aŋ (IA loan)
head	kapu	kapu	kapu	kapu	kapu	kəpu
hair	cimyaŋ	cimeŋ	cimeŋ	mus	mus	sjam
face	k ^h en	k ^h en	k ^h en	k ^h en	k ^h en	mik
eye	mese	mese	mesek	mese	mese	mik
ear	kulna	kulna	kulna	kulna	kulŋa	kuna
nose	ciŋa	ciŋya	ciŋa	cīyā	cīyā	cina
mouth	ugo	ugo	ugo	ogo	ogo	anam
teeth	suwa	suwa	suwa	suwa	suwa	swa
tongue	cile	cile	cile	cile	cile	ce le
breast	cucu	cyucyu	cucu	nunu	cucu	nənu
belly	baŋkal	baŋkal	baŋkal	bʌŋgal	bʌŋgal	uŋaŋ
arm/hand	la?	la?	lak	la	la	hit
elbow	uru	τuŋ	uru	uru	kuino	kuina (IA loan)
palm	oilya	la?	lak	pati	la	lapṭa
finger	c ^h umpi	c ^h umpi	cumpi	cyukuri	cukuri	əŋla (IA loan)
fingernail	pin	pin	pin	pin	pin	lunḍziŋ
leg	konte	kontakte	kontakte	kontakte	lai	undzik
skin	ʃebi	ʃebi	ʃebi	ʃebi	ʃebi	chala (IA loan)
bone	koʃa	koʃa	koʃa	koʃya	koʃya	had (IA loan)
heart	lonse	lonse	lonsek	lonse	lonse	muṭu (IA loan)
blood	cai	cai	cai	cʌi	cʌi	cihui
urine	uʃi	uʃi	uʃi	uʃi	uʃi	ci
feces	kuʈi	kuʈi	kiʈi	kuʈi	kili	ku
village	raʈe	dese	dese	dese	dese	hannuŋ (IA loan)
house	nem	nem	nem	nem	nem	nam
roof	c ^h ana	c ^h ana	pali	pali	c ^h ana	chano
door	k ^h aʈoŋ	k ^h aʈuŋ	k ^h aʈo	k ^h aʈu	k ^h aʈu	ɖhoka (IA loan)
firewood	seŋ	seŋ	seŋ	seŋ	seŋ	siŋ
broom	t ^h ope	t ^h ope	t ^h ope	t ^h ope	t ^h ope	astuŋ

mortar	yamba?	lokmanj	lokmanj	tim	luŋ	siləuto (IA loan)
pestle	ulum	lok	ulum	ulum	lohorø	lohorø
hammer	t ^h okt ^h okya	t ^h okt ^h okya	t ^h okt ^h oke	t ^h ukt ^h ukia	t ^h okt ^h okya	hətəuqø (IA loan)
knife	aikuca	aikuca	aikuca	karda	cʌkku	ukhmen
axe	rapa	rapa	rapa	ra?pa	rapa	kəm
rope	ʃakpa	ʃakpa	ʃakpa	ʃyapa	qamla	dori (IA loan)
thread	d ^h ago	sale	bena	ʃyapa	d ^h ago	ləkthun
needle	hili	hili	yuli	yuli	huli	pənunj
cloth	myuŋ	miŋmyan	myuŋ	myū	myuŋ	mu
ring	saimundro	saimundro	saimundro	ʌŋgulinj	ʌt ^h i	əŋt ^h i (IA loan)
sun	uni	uni	uni	uni	uni	uni
moon	cʌləuni	cʌləuni	cʌləuni	cʌla?uni	cʌlauni	cəlauni
sky	sʌrgya	sʌrgya	surge	surge	ʌkas	akas (IA loan)
star	uc ^h i	uc ^h i	uc ^h i	uc ^h i	uc ^h i	tara (IA loan)
rain	paŋku	paŋkuyusa	j ^h ʌriuan	ʃyarde	j ^h ari	aŋmət
water	paŋku	paŋku	paŋku	paŋku	paŋku	awa
river	ʃoŋ	ʃoŋ	ʃoŋ	ʃoŋ	ʃoŋ	gudul
cloud	d ^h umma	k ^h aʃu	k ^h asu	d ^h umma	d ^h umpa	a mu
lightning	mirlisidu	sʌrgyatowan	mirliksa	miklik	gʌtʃaŋguτunŋ ^h a	-
rainbow	indreni	indreni	indreni	lʌrkuni	indreni	indreni (IA loan)
wind	p ^h aʃa	p ^h aʃa	p ^h aʃa	p ^h aʃya	p ^h aʃya	asi
stone	τiŋ	τiŋ	liŋ	τiŋ	lyuŋ	kumba
path	ulam	ulam	ulam	ulam	ulam	uŋma
sand	p ^h aʃeτiŋ	k ^h re?duτiŋ	jaŋk ^h a	syəŋqø	bʌluwa	balwa (IA loan)
fire	me	me	me	me	me	mui
smoke	asku	asku	asku	ac ^h a	d ^h uwāt ^h an	isku
ash	tarba	traba	traba	traba	tabra	maju
mud	nasa	nasa	nasa	nasa	nasa	nəsa
dust	p ^h aʃe	p ^h asse	d ^h ule	buʃi	d ^h ulo	dhulo
gold	sun	loŋ	luŋ	goho	sun	sun (IA loan)
tree	dorŋbo	dunŋbo	dombo	pole	ruk	sjanma

leaf	aja	aja	aja	aja	aja	su
root	pole	pole	nara	dara	jara	dzəra
thorn	puṭu	puṭu	puṭu	puṭu	puṭu	achu
flower	reŋ	reŋ	reŋ	reŋ	reŋ	phul (IA loan)
fruit	p ^h alp ^h ul	p ^h alp ^h ul	p ^h alp ^h ul	kʌnt ^h ʌmvl	p ^h alp ^h ul	phalphul (IA loan)
mango	ãp	ãp	amcur	ãp	ãp	əmba (IA loan)
banana	muĩ	mui	muĩ	muĩ	mui	umse
wheat (husked)	ja?c ^h o	ja?c ^h o	jakso	jac ^h o	ja?c ^h o	gəu
barley	akan	akan	akan	akan	akan	dzəu
rice (husked)	jake	jaki	jake	meke	jake	hadza
potato	kwai	kwai	kwai	kwai	koi	alu (IA loan)
eggplant	banta	banta	b ^h ent ^h a	banta	b ^h ẽt ^h i	bhənt ^h a (IA loan)
groundnut	bʌdam	bʌdam	bʌdam	bʌdam	bʌdam	bədam (IA loan)
chili	marci	mərci	marci	aso	k ^h orsani	asok
turmeric	hʌrdi	hʌrdi	hʌrdi	besar	besar	besar (IA loan)
garlic	ləsun	ləsun	ləsun	ləmbo	ləsun	ləsun (IA loan)
onion	pyaj	pyaj	pyaj	pyaj	pyaj	pjadz (IA loan)
cauliflower	reŋkopi	reŋkopi	kopi	kauli	kauli	kauli (IA loan)
tomato	banta	gyambala	gambal	banta	golb ^h ẽt ^h a	golbhẽd ^h a (IA loan)
cabbage	ajakopi	ajakopi	bʌnda	bʌnda	bʌnda	bənda (IA loan)
oil	asa	asa	asa	asa	asa	asa
salt	c ^h ya	c ^h ya	c ^h a	c ^h ya	c ^h a	cha
meat	cici	cici	cici	ac ^h in	cici	ku sja
fat (of meat)	c ^h eu	c ^h ou	c ^h eu	c ^h o	c ^h yvu	kucho
fish	nəŋa	nəŋa	nəŋa	nəŋa	nəŋa	nəŋa
chicken	waca	waca	waca	waca	waca	hocca
egg	om	ahum	ahum	aum	aum	ohom
cow	mamaʃya	mamaʃya	mamaʃya	ʃya	ʃya	sja

buffalo	meʃa	meʃa	meʃa	meʃya	miʃya	bhəisi (IA loan)
milk	olon	olon	olən	nunu	nunu	nənu
horns	naru	naru	naru	naru	naru	ujur
tail	lime	lime	limek	leme	lime	pitik
goat	čuči	čuči	čuči	culi	culi	mi chja
dog	kucu	kucu	kucu	kucu	kucu	a kja
snake	rul	rul	rul	rul	rul	pəi hu
monkey	makar	makar	makar	yu	yu	pəi huk
mosquito	činini	činini	činini	ləkʰʌtɔtɔ	lamkʰutte	lamkhutte (IA loan)
ant	čiko	čiku	čiku	cukku	cuku	anap
spider	makarpapa	makarpapa	makarpapa	jramphal	jrampal	dzənna
name	name	name	name	name	name	u men
man	mi	mi	mi	mi	mi	bal
woman	camaica	camaica	camaica	camaica	camaica	mama
child	hoca	uca	huca	hucca	huca	uca
father	apa	apa	apa	apa	apa	papa
mother	ama	ama	ama	ama	ama	ama (IA loan)
older brother	bubu	bubu	bubu	bubu	bubu	dadze (IA loan)
younger brother	hu	hu	hu	hu	hu	ale
older sister	tete	tete	tete	tete	tete	didi (IA loan)
younger sister	humi	homı	humı	humı	hu	abi
son	ca	ca	ca	ca	ca	ucuwa
daughter	camai	camai	camai	camai	camai	ucuməi
husband	lawa	tʰoře	lawa	lawa	lawa	ukəi
wife	uma	uma	uma	uma	uma	uməi
boy	ʃara	ʃara	cahuca	ʃara	ca	papaca
girl	ʃarma	ʃarma	camaica	ʃarmi	camai	mamaca
day	unise	unise	unise	ʃyan	unise	unis
night	čahe	čahe	čae	cyae	cyə	rat (IA loan)
morning	bʌcɪntɛ	bʌcɪntɛ	bʌsɪntɛ	bʌsɪntɛ	baʃe	hamdzan
noon	unise	unise	unise	unise	unise	diouso (IA loan)

evening	ηγοτ̪ιη	ηγοτ̪ι	ηγλ̪τ̪ιη	ηγ̪τ̪ι	cyat̪han	hole
yesterday	miryan̪	miryan̪	miryan̪	merg̪yan̪	merg̪yan̪	minja
today	yan̪	yan̪	yan̪	yan̪	yan̪	t̪eja
tomorrow	batt̪e	batt̪e	batt̪e	baſe	b̪v̪t̪se	hogei
week	h̪apta	h̪apta	h̪apta	lo?ſyan̪	satadin	h̪apta (IA loan)
month	m̪aina	m̪aina	m̪ahine	sumcp̪yan̪	m̪aina	m̪aina (IA loan)
year	kale	kale	kale	dara	b̪v̪rsa	b̪ersa (IA loan)
old	k̪aru	k̪aru	k̪aru	k̪aru	k̪aru	c̪erja
new	nake	nake	naka	naka	naka	kawoi
good	apra	apra	apra	k̪usta	apra	kisen
bad	ma?apra	ma?apra	hijeba	majadu	ma?apra	m̪esen
wet	p̪odu	p̪odu	p̪odu	p̪odu	b̪ijaijan̪	kjasun
dry	gañdu	map̪odu	p̪v̪n̪p̪v̪n̪	gañdu	mab̪ijai	sukhkha (IA loan)
long	vl̪mga	vl̪mga	vl̪mga	vl̪mga	vl̪mga	alok
short	uc̪iga	uc̪iga	uc̪ika	uc̪iga	uc̪iga	ikuri
hot	adum	adum	adum	adum	adum	kewon
cold	ṭila	ṭila	ajik	iji	cilajan̪	kjasun
right	cak̪ur	cak̪ur	cak̪ur	cak̪ur	dahine	daine (IA loan)
left	k̪ola	k̪ola	k̪ola	k̪ola	debre	debre (IA loan)
near	k̪er	k̪er	k̪erte	k̪eren̪	c̪eute	igin
far	vl̪amt̪a	vl̪amt̪a	vl̪amt̪a	vl̪amt̪a	alamt̪a	kalok
big	jeck̪a	jeck̪a	jeck̪a	jeck̪a	j̪oka	alam
small	ucya	ucya	ucaca	ucyanca	ecena	ikine
heavy	g̪v̪ruṇ	g̪v̪ruṇ	ganunidu	g̪v̪rum	g̪v̪ruṇ	gegruṇ (IA loan)
light	h̪v̪luṇ	h̪v̪luṇ	p̪v̪inp̪v̪inc̪a	h̪v̪luṇ	h̪v̪luṇ	h̪elka (IA loan)
above	hyute	hyute	hyute	hyute	hyobbi	khunj
below	n̪ate	n̪ate	n̪ate	n̪anai	nabi	hjan̪
white	ubo	ubo	ubo	ubo	obo	gjabo
black	kiji	kiji	kiji	kiji	kiji	ciliṇ
red	q̪in̪q̪in̪	q̪in̪q̪in̪	q̪in̪q̪in̪	q̪in̪q̪in̪	keret	ph̪eija
one	di	di	di	di	de	de

two	nis	nis	nis	nis	nis	nis
three	sum	sum	sum	sum	sum	som
four	oli	oli	oli	oli	wali	car (IA loan)
five	walŋa	walŋa	walŋa	wāla	hwalŋa	pāc (IA loan)
six	mat	mat	mat	mʌt	mat	chə (IA loan)
seven	ra	ra	ro	lo	τo	sat (IA loan)
eight	la	la	la	la	la	aṭh (IA loan)
nine	kit	kit	kyut	kit	kit	nəu
ten	dicip	dicip	dicip	dicip	dʰicip	dəs
eleven	dicipdi	dicipdi	dicipdi	dicipdi	dʰicipde	egharə
twelve	dicipnis	dicipnis	dicipnis	dicipnis	dʰicipnis	barə
twenty	nisdicip	nisdicip	nisdicip	nisdicip	nisdʰicip	bis
one hundred	dicipdicip	dicipdicip	dicipdicip	dicipdicip	dʰicipdʰicip	de səe (IA loan)
who	su	su	su	su	su	su
what	hara	hara	hara	hara	hara	hai
where	kuta	kuta	kuta	kuta	kuta	kuni
when	kutalenŋ	kutalenŋ	kutalenŋ	kutalenŋ	haŋgalyanŋ	kəile
how many	hani	hani	hani	hālī	hai	kwa
which	kundu	kundu	kundu	kundu	kundu	kun
this	ka	ka	ka	ka	ka	jo
that	to	to	to	dʰa	to	tjo
these	kabaŋ	kabaŋ	kabaŋ	kʌpʌliŋ	kabali	jibaŋ
those	tobaŋ	tobaŋ	tobaŋ	topʌliŋ	tobaŋ	ubaŋ
same	to	to	to	to	to	ui
different	bʰindʌi	bʰindʌi	begale	tonjaka	pʰʌrʌk	phərək (IA loan)
whole	sakkʰale	sakʰale	sakale	sakale	sʌkkʰali	səbəi (IA loan)
broken	kwadu	kwa?du	kwagdu	τʰeman	cʰyomdu	kipak
few	ucʰinca	ucʰinca	ucʰin	ucʰinca	icʰini	jurse
many	ahe	ahe	ahe	ahe	ahe	dherəi (IA loan)
all	sakkʰale	sakʰale	sakale	sakale	sʌkkʰali	səpəi (IA loan)

eat	cyasa	cyasa	cyasa	cyasa	cyasa	cago
bite	ce?sa	ce?sa	ceksa	ce?sa	ce?sa	anjakko
hungry	kraisa	kraisa	kraisa	kr̥isa	isakarainan	hego
drink	tunsa	tunsa	tunsa	tuncʰa	tuncʰa	sjango
thirsty	lakaisa	lakaisa	lakasa	lakaŋsa	lakainan	əs kago
sleep	amisa	amisa	amisa	amisa	amisa	nago
lie	pvl̥t̥visisa	pvl̥t̥visisa	pvl̥t̥visisa	bliŋsa	pvl̥t̥visisa	ləllumgo
sit	ho?sa	ho?sa	hoksa	ho?sa	ho?sa	hukko
give	pi?sa	pi?sa	pisa	pi?sa	piccʰa	pigo
burn	cie?sa	jousa	jyoksa	jo?sa	jyʌusa	cimakko
die	sisa	sisa	sisa	sisa	sisa	sigo
kill	satcʰa	satcʰa	satcʰa	satcʰa	saccʰa	sat ko
fly	persa	persa	persa	persa	persa	ublego
walk	cawasa	cawasa	cawasa	cawasa	cawasa	dzjogo
run	dro?sa	dro?sa	droksa	dro?sa	dorʌsa	gəbango
go	hensa	hensa	hensa	hensa	hensa	jago
come	ra?sa	ra?sa	rasa	ra?sa	ra?sa	təigo
speak	cijyaŋsa	cijyaŋsa	cijyaŋsa	cijyaŋsa	cijaŋsa	khəlago
hear/listen	nasaisa	nasaisa	nasaisa	nasaisa	nasaisa	nago
look	yo?sa	yo?sa	yosa	jyapsa	jyapsa	ni go
I	gai	gai	gai	gai	gai	ŋa
you (informal)	naŋ	naŋ	naŋ	naŋ	naŋ	nuŋ
you (formal)	naŋtʰe	naŋtʰe	naŋkʰe	naŋ	naŋ	nuŋ
he	to	to	to	to	to	u (IA loan)
she	to	to	to	to	to	u
we (inclusive)	ni	ni	ni	ni	tʰe	niru
we (exclusive)	ni	ni	ni	ni	tʰe	niru
you (plural)	ninjpali	ninjpali	niŋ	nʌŋpalɪŋ	nʌŋpali	tibarŋ
they	tobanŋ	tobanŋ	tobanŋ	topaliŋ	topaliŋ	ubaŋ

References

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External links

- [OLAC resources in and about the Thangmi language](http://www.language-archives.org/language/thf) (<http://www.language-archives.org/language/thf>)
- <http://www.digitalhimalaya.com/collections/music/rengpatangko/>
- <http://www.endangeredlanguages.com/lang/4838>

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